

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. Here in Sacramento, we have been subjected to the so called editorials offered by Mark Hyman, which are thinly veiled political attacks upon Senator Kerry and promotion of President Bush. These editorials are not only misleading and, in my opinion, border on slander.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I urge the FCC to examine Sinclair Broadcasting and discipline them for their overt and bias political campaigning under the guise of providing "news". Thank you.